



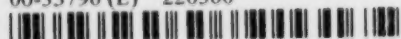
General Assembly

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**Preparatory Committee for the United Nations
Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms
and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects**
First session
28 February-3 March 2000

**“Elements for consideration in the substantive preparation
for the 2001 Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms
and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects”, submitted by the
European Union on 2 March 2000**



European Union : elements for consideration in the substantive preparation for the 2001 Conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

The excessive and uncontrolled accumulation and spread of small arms and light weapons poses a threat to peace and security and reduces the prospects for sustainable development in many regions of the world. The EU offers the following proposals aimed at finding effective solutions to this problem, with particular concern for its impact in the most affected countries.

Since the illicit trade in SALW is closely linked to the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of such weapons, the Conference should deal with criminal breaches of existing arms legislation and export/import controls as well as with all relevant factors leading to the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer, including those referred to in the reports of the UN Group of Governmental Experts. Substantive work during the PrepCom phase should allow for a comprehensive and integrated approach to security and development.

The EU is in this regard strongly in favour of a wide and comprehensive scope for the international conference to be convened in accordance with resolution 54/54 V. The conference should deal with both the preventive and reactive aspects of the small arms problem and envisage effective ways and means

- to combat and contribute to ending the destabilising accumulation and spread of small arms,
- to contribute to the reduction of existing accumulations of these weapons to levels consistent with countries' legitimate security needs, and
- to help solve the problems caused by such accumulations.

The conference should equally consider a wide range of measures to be taken in tackling the problem of small arms. These measures could embrace inter alia:

- adequate regulation of production (including marking), transfer and holdings of small arms as well measures of transparency and confidence building,
- collection and destruction of all weapons which are not under legal possession or are not required for the purposes of national or collective defence and internal security,
- approaches and incentives for the collection of small arms in uncontrolled circulation or unregulated possession,
- international or regional cooperation to support measures for the collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons in the context of post-conflict demobilization,
- strengthening international cooperation among police, intelligence, customs and border control, at the sub-regional, regional and global level,
- assistance for measures at the national level to strengthen control of Governments on holdings, internal trade and international transfer through improved legal and administrative procedures, including training of police, customs and border control officials,
- regional or subregional initiatives on small arms.

The objective of the conference could in the Union's view be politically or legally binding instruments. The conference should equally adopt a Programme of Action encompassing all areas of possible international cooperation on small arms. The agenda of the conference should be formulated accordingly.

For working purposes, substantive work on such measures in the PrepCom phase could be based around 5-6 clusters. As an example, the following clusters could be used:

- Prevention of illicit acquisition, transfer, transit and circulation of SALW
- Commitments regarding production, transfer, acquisition and holdings of SALW in accordance with legitimate national and collective defence and internal security needs, and destruction of surplus weapons
- Collection, control and destruction of illicit weapons
- Strengthening of international cooperation among police, intelligence, customs and border control
- Marking, record-keeping and tracing
- International co-operation and assistance

The substantive work under the clusters should cover both preventive and reactive aspects, including measures in the context of post-conflict efforts. Similarly, each cluster should allow for consideration of both supply and demand side aspects. The economic, social and development aspects of the issue need to be addressed. CBMs should be considered under each cluster.